

Roxbury, Dec. 27, 1858.

My dear Johnson:

It is very kind, on your part, to send me the check for my article before its actual publication. Always postpone, or omit altogether, anything I may send to the Independent, according as your judgment or convenience may dictate, and think not I shall be at all uneasy by any delay or exclusion. I mean just what I say. I know you must have a delicate and difficult task to determine, from week to week, what to print, and what to omit; the manuscript pressure must be so great upon you.

I have been shamefully remiss in writing to you personally. Your last letter, received long ago, was read with very great interest and pleasure; giving me, as it did, the particulars of the visit of Mary Anne and yourself to New Hampshire and Vermont.

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Your sketch was next to the pleasure of accompanying you both on that excursion. I was heartily rejoiced that you were able to get so much of relaxation from your protracted toil.

As to the Anti-Slavery History, it remains in statu quo. I have not yet relinquished the idea of trying to write it, and so have said nothing to Edmund Quincy about writing it himself. I agree with you in believing that he would make an admirable work of it; but I do not think he would be willing to undertake so heavy a task. However, I shall soon come to a decision; and if it shall be adverse to attempting it on my part, I shall then be glad to join you and others in asking Quincy to act in my stead. Either you or I could probably treat the religious aspect of the Anti-Slavery struggle better than he could, on account of our orthodox education. In other respects he would do excellently well.

I think the Independent has evinced great good judgment in not taking any notice of the clerical orthodox bull issued against it at Chicago. I fear, however, that Mr. Bowen went a little too far with his pledges when he went to Chicago, but he knows better than I do about that. At any rate, the Independent is now old enough and strong enough to stand upon its own merits, and need not to make any defence of its course.

Wife sends her affectionate regards, with mine, to Mary Ann, and longs to get a letter from her. She has been very seriously ill within the last two months, but is now as comfortable as usual.

I have very much to write about, but must here abruptly close, or I shall lose the mail.

Give my warm remembrances to Theodore. Was sorry I could not see and hear his lecture in Boston.

Yours, in life and in death, W. L. G.

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